

FLORIDA SKIP

VOL. 35 No. 11

THE ALL-FLORIDA AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION

November 1993 75 Cents

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

I LIKE AMATEUR RADIO by

Joy Collis VK2EBX

I like Amateur Radio, I really think its fine
That I'll still be a "YL" if I live to ninety-nine.

I like amateur radio and getting on the air.
Making friends around the world and contacts everywhere.
You can talk to Lapps in Lapland, Nepalese in Kathmandu,
Malays in Kuala-Lumpur, or Peruvians in Peru.
You can talk to Dukes or dustmen, or communicate in morse,
Experiment with ATV, and RTTY of course.
Put together bits and pieces, though at first the prospect balks,
a diode here a condenser there, and-listen to that- it talks.
Experiment with aerals, it looks real good on paper,
But getting that lot in the air is quite another caper.
You can enter in a contest, gather points for an award,
Join a DX net or ragchew; one things sure, your never bored.
Yes I like amateur radio, and all the friendly sounds,
Removed from all the trouble and strife with which this

world abounds.

Its a satisfying hobby, it certainly will do me,
'Til they write beside my name the words,
"Became a silent key"

Joy Collis VK2EBX

Joy passed away on Friday 25 Oct.1991 after a four year battle with cancer.

John Weatherley, AB4ET



BEWARE OF FCC PHONE SCAM

The Federal Communications Commission is warning of a new telephone scam in which consumers are tricked into accepting long-distance charges for calls placed by con artists. The con works when an unwitting consumer tells an operator "yes" when asked to accept charges for a call being made from another phone to another number elsewhere in the country or the world.

The FCC says the caller claims to be an FCC inspector or representative of a long-distance company investigating calls or trouble on the line. The caller tells the consumer that a supervisor will soon be calling, and that the consumer should just say "yes" when asked to accept the charges. The FCC says it doesn't do business that way, and neither do phone companies.

-Westlink, September 15, 1993

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MESSAGE FROM M.E.

Gerry (KC4EHT), Managing Editor

'Tis the time for turkey already as the year winds to a close. It seems like I just recovered from the Miami Hamfest and already I have the first ad for the upcoming Tropical Hamboree on February 5th and 6th.

How time flies and how fast technology changes. With the computer fast becoming a common household electronic device, we are starting the computer column this month. The Editor, Steve Iezzi, KD4GKE and I are hoping that our readers will be encouraged to submit questions and problems to which Steve will respond. If you have a particular computer subject you would like him to address, please let us know.

Another topic I would like to feature on a regular basis is Digital Communications, ie packet, rtty, amtor, pactor, clover. If there is someone knowledgeable and ambitious, and would like to tackle this topic on a monthly basis, give me a call.

I appreciate your calls and letters with suggestions for the magazine and believe me I weigh the merits of each and every one. Anyone who makes an effort to submit a constructive suggestion or comment is someone who cares and for this reason, they are deserving of consideration.

The new computer column and antenna topics are a direct result of numerous requests. Hey....I'm tryin'. //ger



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FLORIDA PHONE NETS

Doc Staples (W4SME), Editor

Note to Fred Sarg, N4WLM. Thanks Fred for bringing to my attention something that I have taken for granted while writing about the different Florida Phone Nets. Thanks to //ger, (Ye Olde Editor), incidentally my Boss, on Page 5 of the October Edition for listing (correctly) MOST of the Active Traffic Nets! In the future Fred I will try to remember to give each NET it's appropriate COGNOMEN!

**wrs

The SEARCH is ON! To all you readers out there who remember when we all used to keep a daily log of ALL our station operations - did anyone hold on to their OLD LOGS? I desperately NEED your HELP! I am searching for the earliest date of the Florida Phone Traffic Net? Was it '49-54 or 59? And does anyone have the Callsigns and Handles of the members of the FIRST NET SESSION? Find me this information and you will receive a one year free subscription to Florida Skip! 73, DOC W4SME

FROM DOC, W4SME, FPTN NET MANAGER: Yes Ladies and Gentlemen, I certainly enjoyed every minute of the five weeks that I was gone and yes, the Maine lobster was superb! Sorry each of you could not have been there to share it with Betsy and I. Fortunately, I did have the use of a borrowed HF rig and was able most mornings to hear the Net in session even though you were not always able to hear my QRP-P signal! Congratulations on the fine job that you did in my absence. I particularly want to thank the new NCS stations that jumped in and did such a good job running the Net and supporting Dave during the period when so many regular NCS's were not available. And further, a big tip of the sombrero for the manner in which you got your act together in case Florida was visited by Emily! This is what the FPTN Family is all about...working together and enjoying the comradery and developed friendships! The next item distresses me greatly! The Net lost one of it's earliest members and staunchest supporters in September when Cancer struck and K4EJW, Oliver J. "ROY" Carp entered became a SILENT KEY! I joined FPTN in 1963 operating from Atlantic Beach while on duty aboard the aircraft carrier USS SARATOGA. I was totally new to Florida and to FPTN, yet one of the members of the Net took it upon himself to welcome me and familiarize me with FPTN protocol. That person was "ROY". For all these many years Roy has been a valued regular who ALWAYS took the time to inquire about new stations on the Net and was always one of the first to step in and make a stranger feel completely at home! Roy, each and every one of us will miss you! May all of your journey in the future be without pain and all your signals S-9 PLUS! Once again this month we are without a Golden Cookie Winner!!! However, the Net had a good month despite the lousy band conditions and all the missing stations. During September the Net amassed 915 checkins, averaging 30.5 per session, and handled 321 pieces of formal traffic for an average of 10.7 messages per session; and this was all done in a total of 876 minutes, or an average of 29 minutes per session. Average message time slightly more than two minutes! That says we have got some smoking pencils out there and that speaks to the developed ability that each of you members have! The 100% category this month finds the following stations: K04DR, WA4EIC, N4GMU, K2GNZ, KD4IVP, WA4JDH, KB4MON, K4SJA, WB4TOV, WA9VND and WB4ZVD. 95% and better: WA4EYU, KB4FIY, WA4RUE, WB4TZR, K14VT and WB4WYG. Traffic handlers TIP this month is: 'don't mumble your message. Speak distinctly--use the same emphasis for each word in the message! Help the copying station get perfect copy the FIRST time! Welcome aboard to Russ, KC4ZHN of Hollywood our new member from an area where we always need help! That's 30 for now, es 73 & 88's CUL, DOC, W4SME

From Bob, KC4ZHF, Asst. Net Mgr., SEFTN: During the month of September SEFTN had a total of 20 NEW stations checking in and we are sure happy to welcome the visitors. The Net is always looking for additional stations to join the Member ranks and help with moving the traffic. Once again this month we passed the 1000 mark with KC4ZHN, Russ snatching the prize as the 29th station on the 25th of September. Congratulations! For the month,

the Net had 1180 total checkins averaging 39 per session who handled 386 pieces of formal traffic (Avg 13 per session) in 1731 minutes.

September was the 72nd CONSECUTIVE month with over 1000 stations checking in! Our Honor Roll for the month lists the following stations: KD4ELD, KD4GR, KD4HGU, KD4HKS, KD4JMV, KD4LQG, KD4WBY and KC4ZHF! Congratulations, and certificates to each of you are on their way--Keep up the GREAAAT work. Russ, KC4ZHN is fast becoming a TRUE Traffic Hound. With the way he is working on both Phone and CW it won't be long before he will earn his first BPL award! Go for it, Russ! In the most improved category, we congratulate KD4ZFW, KD4NPC and KD4HGU. Don't forget, SEFTN meets every evening at 2200Z on the Motorola Amateur Radio Club Repeater. 146.79/19 Mhz (Dwn600) All licensed Amateurs are always welcome. Come join the fun. 73/88's BOB, KC4ZHF

From Nils, WA4NDA, Net Manager, FMTN: As your Net Manager it gives me sincere pleasure to announce that NR2F, Charlie has accepted the position as Asst. Net Manager. All of you know that Charlie will do a great job and I personally want to thank him for his interest and support! If you had any questions about how bad band conditions could get, and you attended many of the September sessions, you found out in a very short time how rough it could get! I made a request, while wildly waving my Wouff Hong, to get someone to jump into their Megaship and go patch up the Ionosphere! Shucks, I didn't get any takers? But someone musta been banging on the BLACK HOLE because it's getting to the point where we can actually hear other stations! I don't know how most of the NCS's managed to survive August and September, but you have nothing but my gratest admiration for the jobs that you did! Thanks to ALL. My hat's off to ALL the NCS's, Alt. NCS's, Liaison Reps and everyone who handled traffic and it just proves that FMTN IS CAPABLE of doing WHATEVER IS NECESSARY to get the job done under terribly adverse conditions! The gurgling, huffing, puffing, hissing and snorting on frequency has you worried? Don't be alarmed, it's just WA4EYU, Charlie back from his 20 mile jog around the park. What some people won't do to win the SENIOR OLYMPICS! Good luck Chas. How many of you heard KB9UN check in last month? Golly it sure was good to hear Jerry after his long absence. Roy, N4ADI is frantically pulling his hair out while surmounting some pretty tough rig problems! We sure miss you Roy, hurry back! Let's all welcome into the Net Russ, KC4ZHN of Hollywood and it sure is great to have someone fill that very vacant spot. Another old friend has started to be regular with us and that is Jim, KR4EF (Ex WA4WDM) from St. Petersburg. Welcome aboard rd, JIM. In the Stats column, our QNI/QTC ratio has increased by .02 and with the SNOWBIRDS arriving soon, the traffic count will soon be back up to it's normal robust figure. During September FMTN had a total of 423 checkins (Av 14) handling 239 messages (Av 8) in 655 minutes (Av msg time 2.7min). To all that read this column and are ACTIVE on traffic nets, FMTN needs additional support in the form of NCS's, Alt. NCS's and NET Liaisons. Don't forget, you'll never be alone and you will have the full support of the NET. To be an NCS is something special and all it takes is for you to let me know that you will help and I'll help you do the rest! FMTN meets daily for it's warmup session at 1130 local on 7247Khz; come by and get acquainted with the group. For now best 73 & 88's to all. Nils, WA4NDA

From Earl, K4FQU, Net Manager, SWFTN: Looking forward to and going on a vacation is always great, but coming home is even greater when I learned what a great job all you Net Members did in my absence! Thanks for a super job and to Harry, my Manager Pro Tem, my utmost thanks! While up in the northern clime we did get visited by some 40 degree weather which is certainly a break from the constant 90's we were having when I left. To Merry and I it certainly was an abrupt change but we both survived! By the time you read this, October is almost gone and we are headed for the annual Snobird migration! Along with that will come increased traffic, increased numbers of stations checking in and a need for additional traffic handlers and Net Control Stations. Now is the time to get into the swing of traffic handling and volunteering as an NCS. I will always be available to help, and with the Holiday season just over the time horizon, NOW is the time to get a new pad of message blanks and check the SWR on your antenna! Our STATS for September showed that we had 426 stations checking in for 26 sessions handling 98 pieces of formal traffic. Keep up the good work! 73/88's EARL, K4FQU

From Dennis, KB4MON, Net Manager, TPTN: I am truly impressed! Since the date of my becoming your Net Manager on August 1st, TPTN members have demonstrated the finest kind of support to the Net as well as dedication to the principles of GOOD traffic handling! Congratulations to each of you who have joined the Net each day to bring traffic and take traffic. And, In spite of the voids created by the many vacationing members, there is always some station who steps in and picks up the job as NCS. I particularly want to thank NR2F, Charlie and KC4VK, Chuck for their support. With the absence of Wa It, WA4QXT and Ed, WB4QKI our Emeritus NCS WB4WYG, Bill has been keeping his pencil busy! Every good net depends heavily upon it's Liaison stations. TPTN is very fortunate in that N4JAQ, Andy has maintained a regular reporting routine with RN5D and CAN and thanks to the others that operate within the daily down cycle to keep our traffic count climbing. Laura, WA9VND continues to be the Net's real workhorse by attending FPTN, FMTN, FMSN, NFPN and FAST Late as a Daily Liaison. Thanks Laura for all the hard work! WD4KBW, Bill keeps the continuity going with his regular stint as NCS. It was a pleasure for me to add to our daily roster of stations, KC4ZHN, Russ of Hollywood, KI4VT, Joe of Frostproof and NY1H, George of Pinellas Park. I hope everyone will welcome these new stations and assist them in getting accustomed to TPTN protocol! The TPTN Banner for BEST ATTENDANCE, goes to KO4VK, Larry of Okeechobee for both the month of August and September! Congratulations Larry and keep up the good record. As you read this, it is already the beginning of the SNOWBIRD season; we will need all the help from OLD as well as NEW stations on the Net to handle the usual increase in traffic. As your Net Manager I will greatly appreciate everyone's regular attendance! Remember -TPTN meets DAILY at 1700 Local on 3940Khz. Why not drop by and join with us! 73/88's Dennis, KB4MON

From Bill, WD4KBW, FAST/FAST LATE, Net Manager: (Ed note) Last week I received from Bill Net Stats for September via Packet! Thanks Bill, but those cold figures will appear in Traffic Hounds by Bill, K4ZK. I will not publish them here as it would be redundant! This column is about people and what people do on nets and it records their accomplishments. I would like to hope that you would take the time as other Net Managers do and WRITE me and tell me about the Members of FAST and FAST LATE. You have many excellent traffic handlers that work hard and stay up late and as Editor for Florida Phone Nets I will welcome your written report about their accomplishments by the 3rd of the following month to me, W4SME, 5310 Fleet Landing Blvd, Atlantic Bch. FL 32233-4586. Thanks, and your Net Members will thank you also!

FLORIDA TRAFFIC NETS

NET>	FREQ	TIME(ET)
AIN - ARRL Information Net	3940	0730(SAT)
FAST/E - SFL Amateur SSB Tfc Net (Early)	3940	1800
FAST/L - SFL Amateur SSB Tfc Net (Late)	3940	2230
FMSN - FL Med Speed Tfc Net	3651/7061	1750
FMTN - FL Midday Tfc Net	7247.5	1145
FPON - FL Public Opns Net	3908	1630
FPTN - FL Phone Tfc Net	3940	0700
GN - Gator Net	3651/7061	0830
NFEN - NFL Emer Net (Mon-Sat)	3950	0900
NFPN - NFL Phone Net	3950	1830/1930
QFN/E - All FL CW Tfc Net	3651/7061	1900
QFN/L - All FL CW Tfc Net	3651	2200
QFNS - All FL Slow CW Tfc Net	3715	2000
SFAN - SFL ARES Net	3940	0800 (Sat)
TPTN - Tropical Phone Tfc Net	3940/7243	1700

Southern Florida Emergency Coordinators and ARES members should monitor 3940 or 7247 kHz in addition to their local net in the event of an emergency. The emergency operations schedule for Florida section nets will be followed if their is a section-wide emergency.

Refer to the ARRL Net Directory for a more detailed listing of local and special interest nets.

FLORIDA CW NETS

Ed Roller (K4IA), Editor

QFNS Report by Net Manager Laura, WA9VND: Statistics for September QNI 2181, QTC 84 and QND 648. Not bad for a slow CW net. OB, WC4D is off getting well and strong. We had notables like AA4CH, Cef and AA4HT, Rip take over net control for OB. A big thanks for the help, men.

We also had VIP visitors, KC4ECA, JB and AD4CN, Don. Always a pleasure to welcome rare ones. Why not try us? We are on 3715 kHz every night at 8:00 PM local time. We'll be looking for ya.

Gator Net Manager Dan, W4DL Writes: Charley, WA4EYU has a heavy schedule running 3 days and 4 days at the Y for aerobics. Called off Annapolis trip as YL wasn't up to it. Chris, N4EKC says engine on his sailboat needs work. He has a new 1500 watt generator. He will be off again travelling October 12th. Andy, W4IYT is doing three shows a week in the new studio on Westward Drive, Channels 35 & 36, and 10 hours a day Monday through Friday on Channel 40. George, K4JI says pacemaker doing fine. A doctor's appointment on October 7th then 30 days until next. Fighting some arthritis in his bug hand but it doesn't sound like it. Dean, W8IM is busy working as an electrical engineer at a power utility and as a contract broadcast station engineer at several area stations. Summer lightning has him solving storm related problems.

Mae, W3CUL and Al, W3VR welcome cold weather as can get help for a complete antenna overhaul and adding the new band 17 meters - sounds good. Dan, W4DL changed car to house radio to 440 MHz as 2 meter area loaded. Racked his computer and printer and moved them closer to his main operating position. Dick, N2AOX survived bad auto wreck and his oxygen equipment missed him. He is getting regular rig ready to set up again. Gerry, KC4EHT busy with FLORIDA SKIP and hasn't recovered from extra duties during the Melbourne Hamfest.

FMSN Reported by John, KC4FL: This month checkins are down some 31 stations, but messages handled are up 3 with 5 minutes less time. So we are holding our statistics fairly well. We hope that WC4D, OB recovers quickly. He is home from the hospital now and we look forward to his return to the net.

When the Daylight Savings Time is over we will return to 3651 kHz unless band conditions require 7061 to cover Florida. The weather has been generally bad for weeks. See you on FMSN at 5:30 local time. We liaison with TPTN and QFN.

QFN Reported by Manager Don, AD4CN: September was a month of ups and downs for just as I thought my antennas were fine, they decided to come tumbling down.

Besides all this, I was able to stay on top of the net with the help of N4SS and WX4H who picked up net reports and relayed to me. This was truly appreciated, thanks Nick and Mort. Doc, WA4HDH says he is going to check in when able and wants to try his hand again as Tuesday night NCS.

There are some NCS who are not submitting all of their reports to me which causes QFN not to be able to report 100% returns. Please correct this when you QNG our net. We are still looking for a Saturday RN5 rep. This is an easy position for those located on the west coast or panhandle. Please let me know if you will try it. Keep up the outstanding work.

Notes from K4IA By the time you read this there will be a number of our CW operators that will have a certificate stating the extent of their copying ability. The only CW certificate in my files is a 30 WPM certificate from ARRL issued in 1947. I'm hoping to do somewhat better on October 23 at the West Palm Beach Hamfest CW code contest. It's been 46 years. -73, Ed, K4IA.

TOP TWENTY TRAFFICERS - SEPTEMBER

-by WA4PFK and WX4J

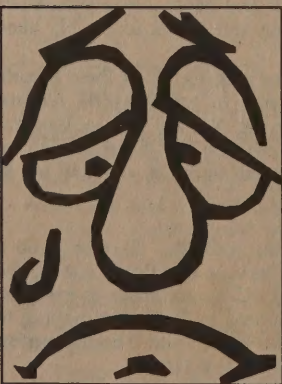
	STATION	TOTAL		STATION	TOTAL
1	W3CUL	2993	11	WA4EIC	219
2	W3VR	958	12	K4IA	197
3	WX4H	736	13	KC4ZHF	188
4	WA9VND	714	14	WA4NDA	172
5	KD4QXF	506	15	N4JAQ	170
6	NR2F	505	16	K4ZK	167
7	KB4WBY	418	17	KB6ECH	162
8	K4SCL	373	18	AA4HT	162
9	WA4PFK	280	19	KC4ECA	160
10	W4DL	248	20	KD4GR	134

TRAFFIC HOUNDS - SEPTEMBER

-by Bill Jochimsen, K4ZK STM, S. FL

NET	QNI	AVG	QTC	SESS	AVG	MGR	QTC/QNI
SEFTN	1180	39.3	386	12.9	30	KD4GR	0.33
FPTN	915	30.5	321	10.7	30	W4SME	0.35
FMTN	423	14.1	239	8.0	30	WA4NDA	0.57
GN	170	5.7	214	7.1	30	W4DL	1.26
TPTN	437	14.6	209	7.0	30	KB4MON	0.48
NFPN	893	29.8	108	3.6	30	N4WMS	0.12
SVTN	738	24.6	105	3.5	30	KD4OBN	0.14
SWFTN	426	16.4	98	3.8	26	K4FQU	0.23
QFNS	218	7.3	84	2.8	30	WA9VND	0.39
NFAN	874	33.6	72	2.8	26	NR2F	0.08
FMSN	184	6.1	69	2.3	30	KC4FL	0.38
FPON	201	6.7	50	1.7	30	WB4GCK	0.25
PBTN	900	34.6	33	1.3	26	N4ZDD	0.04
SPARC	755	25.2	31	1.0	30	N4ZMQ	0.00
GARSN	233	11.1	24	1.1	21	WD4NFG	0.10
DEN	489	54.3	19	2.1	9	K4RBR	0.04
BCEPN	132	33.0	8	2.0	4	WA2DXQ	0.06
PBEN	120	24.0	8	1.6	5	WB2OUK	0.07
AIN	29	9.7	3	1.0	3	WA4PFK	0.10
SFAN	77	12.8	1	0.2	6	KD4GR	0.01
ENMC	35	7.0	0	0.0	5	WB9SHT	0
TOTAL 4164				TOTAL 0.24			

Melbourne BBS Zapped Again



The N5AUV Packet BBS was again victimized by an errant bolt from the heavens. Der light und der bang und der sizzle happened at the same time and der BBS went kaput.

At this writing, it is unknown just how long the BBS will be inoperative but N4AWX in Cocoa and N4ZIQ in St. Cloud will be taking up the slack in forwarding.

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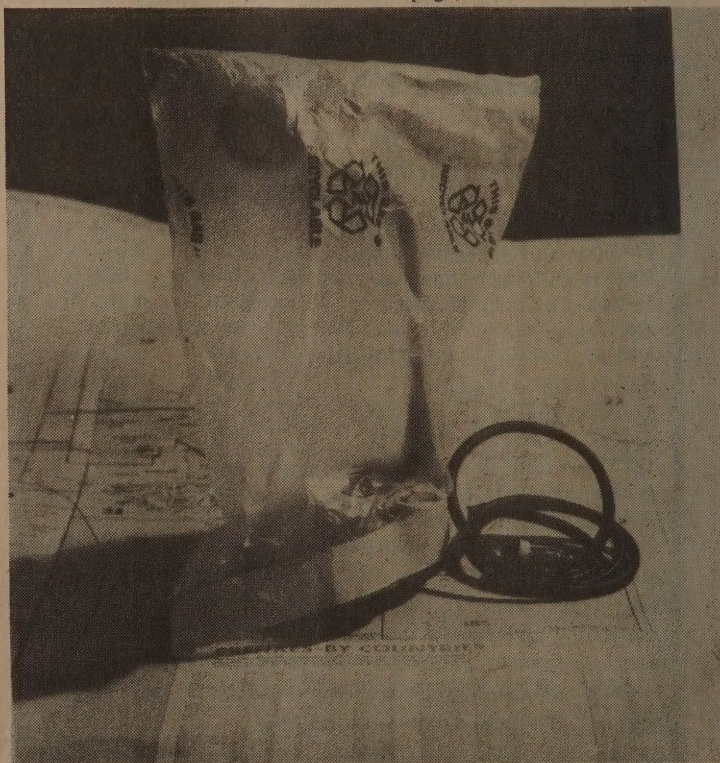
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WHATINTHEHANGISIT?

(See answer next page)



WATINTHEHANGISIT?

After ruling out an electric plastic bag, I incorrectly guessed that it was an inflatable microphone. "Wrong," says **George Mann, KJ4UW of Dade City, Florida**. "It is a handy-dandy, environmentally-correct, cheap (matter-of-fact, free), **INSTANT DUST COVER**."

The never-to-get rich inventor conceived and constructed this dust cover. George took his recyclable Sunday Newspaper bag and cut it to fit over his microphone. On the bottom, he carefully bordered it with masking tape to add weight and keep the bag from tearing. The entire project consumed three minutes from conception to construction.

According to George, the bag man, similar schemes can be used for other pieces of equipment.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Lorraine Matthew makes All-World Team

One of the **FLORIDA SKIP's** Editors has made it big time. **Lorraine Matthew, N4ZCF/AAA9PR**, State Army MARS Editor, has been appointed to the Special Staff of Chief, Army MARS as the Worldwide Public Relations Officer for Army MARS.

That's no small achievement and she deserves it. Lorraine is a dedicated ham and prolific writer. Her work in the MARS organization has been exemplary. The **FLORIDA SKIP** is proud to have her as an Editor and extends its sincere congratulations to her on her prestigious appointment.

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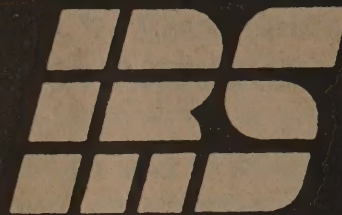
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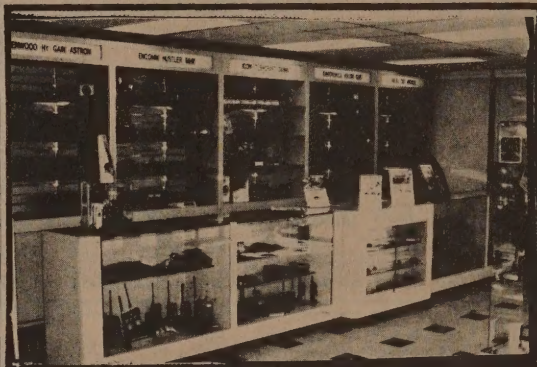
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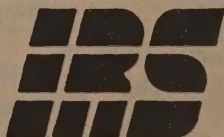
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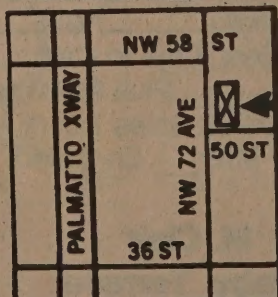


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Eli Nannis (K4JMH), Editor

Florida QCWA lost a very valuable member James Gundry, W4JM. Jim would send me the reports of the Lakeland Chapter for the QCWA column and he seemed to know what each member of the chapter was doing in ham radio. I could fill a whole column from his reports. We will sure miss him at the National Convention in Clearwater.

In WorldRadio, there was a very nice picture of our former President Leland Smith, K5KL along with a history of his career. The QCWA National Convention will be here soon October 29 and 30 and we hope that our Florida members will try to attend. A wonderful program is planned and there will be many awards. Keep your chapter reports coming in as we need them for this monthly column. Most chapters will be having official meeting starting in October so keep me informed.

Gator Chapter. We had very good attendance at our September meeting with 35 members and guests. Our next meeting in October will be our first official meeting. We were sorry to learn that Lou Weber K4HWS, a long time member, is in a rest home and we all wish him well. Don W4PCO gave a report on the QCWA Convention and it is coming along very well with many advance reservations. Our members are working with the Pelican Chapter to make this a great convention. We hope to see many of our Florida QCWA members in person at the convention. Congratulations to Harold Johnson, K4GVB and his XYL on their 64th wedding anniversary.

At our first official meeting of the fall season, there were 27 members and guest present. The program was given by Ernest Meeker, Manager Radio Systems. A new system has been developed by the Pinellas County Government. It is called Radio Watch. All vehicles which are equipped with 2-way radio communications are requested to report any law breaking which they might see. If they see a crime being committed, they are requested to report it to their base station which will in turn, report it to the proper police authorities. A report was given on Lou Weber, K4HWS condition and he is getting along fairly well and wants to come home from the rest home. Don, W4PCO of the QCXWA Convention committee reported that 190 reservations have been received and more are coming in. It looks like it will be a very successful QCWA National Convention. The Randles are back from their summer home and looking very fit. Blanche Randles, Co-chairman of the convention was selling tickets for the Pelican Gator picnic to be held on November 17th.

-Reported by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

Suwannee Chapter. At our August meeting, two sheriff's deputies gave a rundown on the Marion County Mobile Emergency Communications Center van. They reported that the van and its crew was assigned to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. Its communications capabilities exceed that available in Dade County. Volunteer hams do the required radio operating. We were also given a briefing on the long-standing amateur Armwatch program that provides law enforcement with 2-meter assistance in spotting possible crimes and accident emergency situations. It was reported that George Sperry, W4UKA will be presented with his 70-year certificate during the St. Petersburg National QCWA convention. We voted to change our meeting day back to Saturday. Bill Menner, K2YMQ summarized several proposed changes to the constitution. The two major changes being a revision of the quorum definition and division of Secretary/Treasurer to separate offices to facilitate task of the yearly nominating committee. The nominating committee reported that a full slate of officers would be available for voting in October.

-Reported by Bob Saulpaugh, AG3S

Southeast Chapter. We had 15 members and guests at our September meeting. Marion Krug, SYL of silent key Paul Krug,

W4LGP read the minutes of our last meeting. Herb W4JXA advised the present condition of member Al Wilcox, W4ELR. We discussed our proposed attendance to the forthcoming QCWA convention at St. Petersburg on October 29 & 30. Our proposed 2-meter net for members of our chapter was discussed without any decision reached as to its formation. Harry Pilafian, W4SQG returned the PA system we used at our meetings. We expect to expand our system of obtaining informal speakers to our meetings. Andy Clark, W4IYT expanded on the TV program he edits titled, "What is your opinion?" broadcast on channel 35 for the past 3 years. Harry Pilafian, W4SQG explained the system of funding for his free ham radio course given in our vocational schools in Dade County, FL. Ed Turnpugh, K4MAV won an ARRL Antenna handbook donated by Andy Clark. Andy always comes up with the personal gift to our members of chapter to show his attachment to QCWA and our local friends.

-Reported by Herb Bernard, W4JXA

Hernando Chapter. Many of our members have been meeting informally all summer. Our regular chapter will be held on September 15th at the Pier 688 restaurant in Brooksville. Our meeting will be held on Wednesday. Birthdays for June: Frank, W1YTB; Billy, WE4C and Theodore, W1UUZ. In July: Charlie, W0GGU; Doreen, KB4NWM, XYL of Ken VE3BUA; Harry, W2IWA; Richard, WA4OMX; Don, K4CMJ and Eunice, W1UKR. Anniversaries for June: Wes, W4COW and Blanche W4GZX; Jordan, WB2IMO and Carol; John, WB4MOX; Anniversaries for July: Bob, WA4SLF and Bernice; Allen, K4IKM and Leona, KA4WPL. For August: Dick, W1XJ and Elaine. Our restaurant, Pier 688 is in Brooksville located on US41.

-Reported by Marv, W1GEN

Pelican Chapter. Our regular monthly meeting for October was held on September 15th at the Homestyle Family Buffet in St. Pete. New members were introduced and they were Irwin Meyers, WA2YQU; Jim Everwine, W4APV and Bill Reiss, KK4XI. Our total membership now exceeds 140. Bill Reiss, KK4XI gave an interesting talk on "dirty birds" and how is Pinellas Emergency Response Team (PERT) made good use of the Pelican Chapter 145.29 repeater in cleaning up the recent oil spill mess nearby in the Gulf of Mexico's Fort DeSoto park area. It was reported the Gil Pearsall, W8HEZ is still slowly recovering from appropriate therapy and expects to return to our area soon. Alice Stocky, XYL of Dave, K4KE is home from the hospital and is in good spirits. Happy anniversary in October for Louise and Lynn Brendel, K4HCV and Fran, K4RXO and Woody Huddleston, K4SCL.

-Reported by C. Gramm, KB4ZB

Palm Beach Chapter 111. I'm sorry to have missed the last month's meeting, all reports indicated that it was an enjoyable luncheon and very ably chaired by our VP Forrest Haynes, K4YPO, with some help from Walt Reitz, K4JCA who gave a nice talk about his activities on Amateur Television. Sounds very interesting - I wish I could have been there.

Don't forget the upcoming QCWA National Convention in St. Petersburg on October 29 & 30. You'll just make it if this is the first time you've heard about it. Hope to see all of you there.

Next meeting will be on the 26th of October at the NPBCC Dining Room. Hope to see you all and I'll tell you all about my trip...hi, hi.

-73 & 88, Bob McDow, W4KOG



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Old Old Timers Club News

I've been out of town for the last few weeks, so I haven't been able to keep up on the net news. We'll try to play it by ear though and come up with something to fill in a little bit of space.

The Saturday morning net continues to be in pretty good shape. The band is holding up and we usually have about a dozen or so checkin's each week, and will probably increase as we get further into the winter season. The Wednesday net though, is in trouble. Our NCS Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF is making a couple of changes which should help. The net will now start at 0900 AM local time, the frequency will remain at 7274 kc. up or down 5 kc. as QRM requires. Please make not of the changes and check in accordingly. The Wednesday morning net needs you participation.

Bob Bookwalter is trying to organize an OOTC luncheon at the upcoming QCWA Convention in St. Petersburg on Saturday, October 30. If you are planning to attend, please let Bob know as soon as possible. I hope to see you all there. Let's have a big turnout we can all enjoy.

-CU at St. Pete...73..Bob McDow, W4KOG

KNIGHTS OF THE KILOCYCLE

3910 kc. Sunday Morn. 1230Z - 0730EST

I'm afraid the comments this month are going to be a little short and sweet for a couple of reasons. As I told you last month, we went on a trip to take in a couple of reunions with some of my old Air Force bunch, and we just got back in time to be late getting a short column in to SKIP before the deadline. Since I've missed the last few nets, I don't have any news to comment on anyway so I guess it comes out even.

Had a very nice time on our journey. We went up to Nashville for a weekend. (That place is WORSE than Disney) Then we came back down through Alabama to Pine Mountain, GA where we spent the next weekend. That's the location of the Callaway Gardens Resort, which is very nice and casual. A real pleasure after the experience up in the Nashville area. Got to see some of the guys we had served with overseas in the Prague and Vienna areas in '46 - '47 era, and got to meet quite a few of the fellows I talk to a couple of times a week on the Air Force Communication Systems net. We had a good time but I was really glad to get home.

I'm looking forward to the West Palm Beach Hamfest. It will be history by the time you're reading this, but I hope to have seen a few of you there. We just got out notice in the mail for the Miami Hamfest in Feb. I haven't decided yet whether we'll have a table this year in Miami. It depends on how well we do in WPB and if I've got anything left...Money, that is.

I'm going to have to start all over on the net list this Sunday. I was all the way up to the top and the next in line for NUMERO UNO when we left. I stopped to see Dewight, N4POA on our way home. We had a nice eyeball but I

couldn't convince him I had been attending Hamfests around the country so I guess I'll be on the bottom again.

Lost one of my tomato plants while we were gone. We had four, now we're down to three. Those are growing like crazy though so all is not lost...yet.

-73 & 88, Bob McDow, W4KOG

Florida BBS Statistics - September 1993

-by Bill Britton, KB4VOL, Packet Manager South Florida

NORTH FLORIDA STATISTICS

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT	MSGs
AA4RU	32	1041	4711	5784	
K4GBB	10	440	520	970	
K4OZS	N/R				
KA4GDV	N/R				
KB4T	N/R				
KM4DY	73		23	96	
N4DWY	N/R				
N4GMU	31	491	632	1154	
N4JTS	4	75	262	341	
WX4J	246	175	9	430	

TOTAL NTS 396

SOUTH FLORIDA STATISTICS

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT	MSGs
W4DPH	129	5760	5442	11331	
W8DUV	75	3150	3888	7113	
KB4VOL	74	2389	3618	6081	
KB4GBS	6	1468	4506	5980	
WB4TEM	82	1489	4016	5597	
WD8IBY	42	926	4618	5586	
KI4ZJ	18	475	5010	5503	
W4MWP	38	563	3934	4535	
WA2LKI	58	731	3611	4400	
KE2IX	89	1267	2695	4051	
KB4WUA	12	191	3724	3932	
WB4MOZ	12	464	3418	3894	
KP4EDL	34	684	2473	3191	
WB2WPA	18	764	2179	2961	
KF4OJ	1	1004	1611	2615	
K4TKU	0	358	231	589	

NTS TOTAL: 688

Quite a few reported this month. This is good, but we're still missing many of the registered full-service BBS's in Florida. Remember, this is not an "ego trip" for sysops, but information needed by ARRL to prove activity to the FCC and fight to preserve our packet frequencies. Sysops are reminded it only takes a few minutes each month to file a report. Those needing the SAR112 utility, written by K4GBB, may have one free of charge. Just send your name, address and type (size) floppy needed to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL and it will be mailed to you. It works with all of the commonly-used BBS programs, including FBB.

This is my first attempt at coordinating the South Florida reports. It will be hard to "follow" Kay, W8DUV, as she did such a marvelous job. Any comments or suggestions will be welcome!

Remember, send all North Florida reports to N4GMU @ N4GMU. South Florida to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL. Reports must be sent the first of each month covering your BBS activity for the preceeding month.

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL, NTS PACKET MGR SFL

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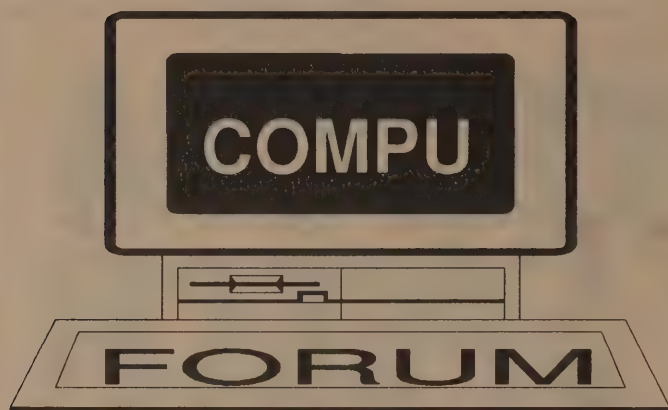
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-by Steve Iezzi, KD4GKE

Welcome to the FLORIDA SKIP Amateur Radio Computer Forum. My name is Steve Iezzi (KD4GKE) and I will be your moderator in this endeavor. I am a relatively new ham (two years) who joined the hobby because I am interested in exploring the art of communication. In this column, I hope to offer my experience in computers to hams who are finding more and more uses for them in the ham shack.

As I sit in front of my computer screen, I can hear the whirl of fans in the background. These fans are from 45 different computers used in a space about the size of a large house. I'm surrounded by all kinds: PC clones, Macs, and Unix Workstations. The crazy part of this scene is that only sixteen people work here. There are practically three machines for each and every person in this office. We really don't even need lights and heat. The glow of the monitors could easily take the place of the lights. I hadn't really thought much about this scene until recently when a longtime friend and former coworker joined me again. On his first day of work, I introduced my friend to everyone in the office and to the 45 computers. After a couple of hours of wandering the halls, my friend asked me when I last used a pencil. "I still sign checks," I responded. "I guess I missed something, because I still write things down," he said. "That's not the half of it," I told him. "we hardly even use the keyboard either. We have more mice per capita than New York City."

We may be an extreme case but all through the business community, computers are finding their place on every desk. Home computers are becoming just as common as VCR's and many ham shacks have at least one computer in them. I say at least one because I have to include the computers that are in the radio gear as well. Just about every new radio has some kind of computer in it. I even read an Ad that bragged of a sixteen-bit processor in the rig just to control all of the features on the front panel. If we really are surrounded by these Tools of Doom, as one frustrated user called them, then we may as well get to know them.

This column is a two-way street. I hope to hear from you, the Florida Amateur. Send me your questions, ideas or observations about the personal computer's role in the ever changing amateur radio hobby. I can try to answer your questions or at least comment on your ideas.

Last month, I attended the Melbourne hamfest. After the hoard subsided and I could see the tables, I scanned the used gear for a friend who wanted a computer. We ended up with a vintage 1988 IBM PS2-30. It was a good buy even though

it is only a 286 processor. I bought a perfectly usable printer for 5 dollars. You heard me right. I only paid 5 dollars and it worked. Now this printer used a ribbon and a daisy wheel to print and it couldn't print graphics. For word processing or record keeping, this printer will do just fine. On Sunday, a vendor was in the parking lot selling CD ROM drives for 100 dollars. These drives sold for six hundred dollars only two years ago. With such great buys in used equipment, it was obvious that computer hardware didn't hold its value. Amateur Radio gear, particularly 2-meter rigs are worth almost as much as new radios even 5 years later. Computers are not so lucky. The reason for this drop in value is driven by the market. Software companies are constantly developing more sophisticated programs and we snap them up like popcorn at the movies. Older machines are usually slower and some don't support the memory that is required to run the new software. As a result, computers become obsolete very quickly -- or do they. If you open up the PC and look inside, you will find a lot of similarity between a 286 computer and a 486 computer. Actually, if you started with a clone PC that had a separate Input/Output card and Video card, you can usually upgrade your computer by changing out the motherboard. That's something to think about when you see the outdated junk stacked on the swap table.

In future months, I will discuss how to spot a gem in the rough and what it takes to upgrade that gem to the powerhouse machine you really want.

NU TECH

CD-ROM Electronic versions of magazines are just around the corner. Time magazine will make its full test available to America Online subscribers.

-W5YI Report, Advertising Age

The Washington Post has developed a prototype **electronic newspaper** that could be transmitted through PCS (the new digital wireless communication service.) By touching a picture or headline, a reader could receive additional information in any form: video, sound or conventional text.

-W5YI Report, Broadcasting and Cable

Texas Instruments has a new silicon **DMD chip**, just a bit larger than 1/3-inch square, that has more than 400,000 tiny imbedded mirrors. Each mirror is only 17 millionths of an inch on a side. The mirrors can be directed to reflect light (and images) onto a projection screen. The quality of the picture is said to be superior to that of cathode ray and liquid crystal displays.

The digital micromirror device (DMD) system provides excellent resolution, brightness, contrast and color fidelity. The tiny mirrors create a flicker-free picture and produce less visual noise, which shows up as static or picture dropouts, than do traditional TV monitors. A single chip can create a full NTSC TV picture. It may take as many as three to create a high definition television image. The mirrors on the chip, each corresponding to a single pixel of the picture, reflect light through a projection lens onto a 60-inch projection screen 12 feet away.

-W5YI Report, Broadcasting and Cable



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POLK HAM CLUB

Belated Field-Day Report

-by Chet, AB4XK

Ed. Note. Due to some sleight of hand with several submissions by Chet, his field-day report was never reported. He had also submitted some fine photographs, some of which are included in this month's issue. //ger

We set up our operations at Mary Holland Park in Bartow and used the club callsign: W4TJM. We operated 2A-SFL and also had a packet station along with a Novice station using the call, KE4OCW.

Patsy, KE4OCW had just passed her 5 WPM CW test and this was her first experience on CW. She made 10 contacts on 40-meter CW and quite a few contacts on 10-meter phone.

Most contacts were made on 20 and 15-meter CW by Rip, AA4HT and Chet, AB4XK. Some contacts were made on 80/40/20 phone by other operators. (I was really disappointed at the lack of operators)

The picnic, Saturday, hosted about 70 hungry people and the weather cooperated most of the weekend. In all, we had a great time.

SILENT KEYS

We regret to report the passing of the following Florida Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify FLORIDA SKIP of any silent keys in your area.

W4DD - Edwin F. Hallam, 89, Boca Raton
WB4AJQ - Alfred E. Staffa, Hobe Sound
K4HE - Norman R. Weible, N. Palm Beach
W1WK - Leon G. Wood, Avon Park
W2FDF - Irving B. Zuckerman, Apopka
W2TIO - Richard H. Lewis, Coocoanut Creek
KA4BIB - George T. Moore, Tampa
K4EPH - Edward McMullin, St. Petersburg
W4GXV - Benjamin F. Bunn, Cocoa Beach
K4BYZ - Edmund F. Weller, Boynton Beach
W4IRP - Victor J. Strinck, Tampa
W4OLR - Victor U. Tervola, Cape Coral
KD4OZY - Herbert Engelman, Lake Worth
WB4PWC - Darrell D. McKinley, Lake Placid
AA4YA - William R. Schoppe, Orlando
K5CJ - Thomas J. Roberts, Lake Worth
N8DJL - Cecil E. Eltzroth, Paisley
K9YKE - Raymond E. Chausse, Leesburg

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"SE HABLA ESPAÑOL"

The Panhandle at a Glance

-by "Matt" Matthew, KC4RKJ

At a local club meeting I looked around and I realized that there were only one or two young people in the room. The officers of the club have, in the past, expressed concern about the fact that young people who are starting out in Amateur Radio don't seem to be around.

In the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society newsletter called *The Printed Circuit*, Phil (N4IPH) expressed the same concern. He based his article upon the QST July 1993 article entitled, "Where have all the Novices Gone?" I guess I missed that article in July and I'm sure others missed it also for one reason or another.

I would like to present some of the statistics Phil brought out from the survey conducted by the ARRL which should really rattle you when you see them.

For instance, 15% of the Amateur Radio Licensees were unreachable by mail or were deceased and their passing had not been reported to the FCC by family members.

Also, 44% of the Novices were unreachable by any method. Of the 55,000 Novices reached of more than 100,000, 39,000 say they are inactive. Of 16,000 who say they are active (which includes listening) nearly 10,000 devote less than 1 hour per week on the radio.

On the average, active Novices spend 2.7 hours a week as compared to 5.5 hours per week for the other Amateur classes. A full 65% say they have never been a club member as compared to 29% of total ham population.

The average age of a Novice is 39 years as compared to 50 for total amateur radio population.

It makes you wonder, "Why?" Or maybe we should ask, "What are we doing wrong?"

Amateur radio has an important place in the emergency communications system when we have a disaster. At an ARES meeting in Jacksonville, it was brought out that there was a new recognition of the role that Hams made in Hurricane Andrew. More cooperation is being planned between the Emergency Management Coordinators and local organizations which would provide this vital service. If the services of Amateur Radio are not used, time could dull this recognition. Let's hope not. We need all the trained people we can get and we need these young people in there.

In another vein, we have the passing of an illustrious age. In the early 1900's, the Coast Guard started to monitor the 500 kHz frequency for distress signals from ships at sea. Morse code made communications possible even under the worst conditions. This service has been in operation around the clock for all these years and has no doubt saved many, many lives.

On July 31, 1993, in the Marshfield Massachusetts Coast Guard Station, retired operators gathered around as a last "73" was tapped out. We stand silent for another silent key.

Another era is beginning and many predict that radio operators will no longer be needed as such on ships at sea by the year 2000. Transmissions from satellites give a running position report that is within 30 feet of the ship's position.

It is fascinating to watch the Latitude and Longitude on

the clock-like screen constantly changing second by second. Communications are kept open constantly via satellite. Those of you who own a TV satellite will be able to visualize this scene more easily.

Telephone communications via satellite are routine on board cruise ships and the only drawback is the cost.

Those of you have listened to the maritime net have heard Amateurs on small boats making position reports every day. The very lives of these Amateur sailors can hang on their contact of lack of contacts of known vessels way out there.

In some ways we have progressed, but we must all remember our heritage; and it is very important that those who have experienced all these changes pass them on to those who are just entering Amateur Radio. This duty is not to be taken lightly. The existence of this hobby may be in your hands.

DBARA Salutes New Editor



Members of the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association admire and welcome a former Cuban exile as their new Editor of the DBARA newsletter, *The Groundwave*.

32 years ago, Rafael Torres, KD4MTF, abandoned his native Cuba having seen it taken over by a cruel and oppressive communist regime. Being an avowed dissident and a member of the anti-Castro

underground movement showed courage and dedication. We expect that Rafael will bring his spirit and dedication to the newsletter.

DBARA salutes Rafael and his special lady, Elena, and wish him well in his new venture.

-Larry Amann, K5TQN

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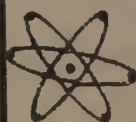
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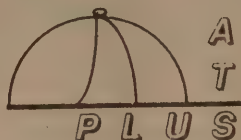
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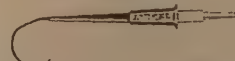
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KEYS, KEYS, AND MORE KEYS

-by Del Clouser, W8KJP

Ed. Note. Del Clouser is considered an authority on keys and is an avid collector of them. He is running a very interesting series in the HAMM/RAMM Newslines, a publication of the Retirees Association - Martin Marietta Electronics, Information & Missiles Group, Jim Emmons, W4OPR - Editor. FLORIDA SKIP is happy to share his essays with its readers. //ger

Since this is the first article about telegraph keys, I'm certain we'll all agree that "landline" can be considered where it all started. About 1897, all telegraphy was via wire. There were a few experiments in other mediums, but in general, the telegraph in the late 19th century meant railroad, Western Union, and other hard-wired communication systems. Only after the appearance of "wireless," did it become necessary to distinguish the earlier systems with the term "landline."

The early Morse circuits used basic instruments of a key, sounder, and relay, powered by batteries. One other device used to extend the distance over which messages were sent was the repeater. By the turn of the century, landline telegraph used many complex circuits and instruments, i.e. duplex & quadruplex, sounders with contact elements, and 3-coil relays. Railroads daisy-chained their stations with basic circuits and relays.

Prior to 1881, a typical key had a brass lever; a steel shaft inserted transversely through it with a press fit, the axis upon which the lever pivoted. This design had defects. It required a thick, heavy lever to get sufficient lateral rigidity between the lever and shaft. The shaft was also subject to flex, resulting in lateral motion of the moveable contact, resulting in either sticking or failure to break the circuit if adjusted too closely. And, if the shaft didn't flex, its fit in the lever could loosen over time. Jesse Bunnell patented his "steel lever" hand key using one piece of steel in the form of a cross with trunnion points to the left and right. The key came without a base, but with 2 bolts for mounting to a table, etc.

Bunnell probably produced more hand keys and sounders than all others combined. Well, I won't take credit for this information. It was obviously gathered from many sources. If you are interested in more key information, let me know and we'll assemble it. I'm also interested in buying any old keys.

J. H. BUNNELL & Co.,

STEEL LEVER SOLID TRUNNION KEY.

Pat. Feb. 15th, 1881.



THE READERS WRITE

Loveless Lost No More

From Bob Smith, KO4MD - Naples

Reference your item on Page 6 of the October issue of FLORIDA SKIP: Patty Loveless becomes ham.

A recent packet message from AA7OA, Dan Sealy in Astoria, OR, entitled, "Celebrity Hams" shows Patty Loveless callsign to be KD4WUJ. Sam's callbook shows that call listed to Patty L. Ramey, POB 624, Dallas, GA 30132.

Dear Bob - You don't suppose you could get her phone number for me do you?

If you have a list of celebrity hams, pass it along. It may be interesting to do an occasional listing. I read an abbreviated list recently and was mildly surprised to find a few that I hadn't heard about before. As with many pieces of paper, I could not locate it to do a list this month. //ger

The lost FLORIDA SKIP Contest

From Don Trayes, WB4CVH - NAS Cecil Field, Florida

Dear Gerry: Anything happening with what you proposed in the May '93 issue of FLORIDA SKIP; a FLORIDA SKIP contest? I don't know how much activity it would generate but I know I'd enjoy operating in it. Perhaps it should be conducted in conjunction with a "Florida QSO Party."

Don - The followup on the proposal was in proportion to the response, if that tells you something. Maybe you are the one to break the ice and thanks for your continued interest. //ger



FLORIDA ARMY MARS NEWS

-by Lorraine S. Matthew
N4ZCF/AAA9PR

From Maine to California, all of Army MARS is preparing to participate in the first ARRL-MARS cooperative venture during the month of October. This venture carries the acronym SET (Simulated Emergency Test) for 1993. According to Army MARS ARRL Coordinator, Rudolf Adler/AAA9RL, even though the official dates of 16-17 October have been published by the ARRL SET committee, state and local units may conduct their tests anytime between 1 September and 30 November.

Florida Army MARS operators are ready for full participation in this test of emergency preparedness no matter when during the allowable test period that we are called. Word from Tallahassee, however, indicates that the major portion of the SET in Florida will be conducted on the weekend 30-31 October.

It will be interesting to watch the cooperation between ARES and MARS in practice. This cooperative spirit should prove very valuable to all groups concerned. Emergency planning and communications have no room for internal rivalries among what are, after all, associations of Amateur Radio operators. The training and techniques of each group may differ, but the ambition to serve is the same. Amateur Radio and the public are well served when all elements of Amateur Radio work together in harmony.

The primary purpose of SET, like every simulated emergency test sponsored by any group, is to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the system being used and the plans that have been made. The weaknesses, in particular, would be studied with the goal to be to overcome and correct the causes of those weaknesses. The combined ARRL/MARS participation in SET this year would allow both parties to study the real inter working relationships between the two groups.

Another expressed purpose of the SET exercise is the opportunity to provide a public demonstration to served agencies and to the news media of the value to the public that Amateur Radio provides, particularly in time of need. This need for public knowledge and support has been expressed often in this column in terms of MARS and in terms of Amateur Radio in general. It is needed. The public needs to look at Amateur Radio as a national asset which should not be diminished or lost.

A final purpose expressed by the planners of SET is that the exercise could help radio Amateurs to gain experience in communications using standardized procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions. This purpose, of course, is practiced by Army MARS (and all other MARS) everyday. One can hear standardized procedures well used on the Florida Traffic Nets as well. Listen in before the SET and you will hear some excellent procedures in use.

Florida Army MARS continues to work very hard to develop statewide fully linked VHF repeater and digipeater systems. HF is still the primary medium for long range support communications; however, it has been long recognized that VHF would serve a vital role for local to

mid-range operations. The VHF/UHF Planning Committees are to be commended for all the work that has gone into the project thus far. Great progress is being made and this project is worthy of support by all MARS members. Coordination with Air Force MARS is an integral part of the plan. Anyone familiar with the workings of traffic flow in Florida, particularly in the Panhandle, can appreciate the value of coordinating with AFMARS on any VHF/UHF project.

From CHNAVMARCORMARS (Chief Navy Marine Corps MARS) in a Navy Marine Corps MARS broadcast came plaudits for the Navy Marine Corps MARS members in their Region Two along the Atlantic Coast.

"There was much professional and timely ECOM activity in Region Two last week in response to Hurricane Emily. Area and Region ECOM Nets were conducted with good participation and excellent net controls. I am very glad the hurricane only brushed CON US, but it was good to hear how well prepared Region Two was in the event the storm had taken a more destructive path."

Congratulations to those NavMarCorMARS operators who stood by and participated so well during the threat to their region. They are typical of MARS operators in all three service programs who work hard and stay prepared for any eventuality every day of the year. It is only through constant training and practice that this quality of service can be maintained.

In terms of being always prepared, constant practice for emergency message handling is essential. Practice for all of the MARS services and for National Traffic System operators comes in the form of real time message traffic. This year, again, Army MARS is promoting Operation: Holidays during which all operators are encouraged to find at least one member of the non-radio public and to show that member the services that Amateur Radio has to offer. This program will be described completely in this column in next month's issue. Meanwhile, get acquainted with that non-radio person and work with him/her. Amateur Radio and MARS would be well served.

It is with pleasure that I announce my appointment to the Special Staff of Chief Army MARS and the Public Relations Officer for all of Army MARS worldwide. Be assured that this column will still be open to news from Air Force and Navy Marine Corps MARS. We all work together and we should all share the benefits of publications like this one. Please feel free to send items of interest to me at the address printed in the Florida Skip editorial identification block inside the front cover. Packeted material can reach me at:

MARS: AAA9PR@AAT4BM or AMATEUR:
N4ZCF@N4GXX



Chet, AB4XX, Secretary of the Polk Ham Club, operates 20-meter CW from W1AW/4 at the ARRL National Convention in Huntsville, AL.

Code Quick and How It Works

-by Clark J. Evans, Sr. WA4DLL

My first use of Code Quick Morse Code Program in my Novice classes came in 1985 when one of my past Novice students, Ed Wright, KA4UMC said, "try this course." I listened to it and it was fantastic! After listening to it, I said, "I sure wish I had this Code Quick program when I was a Novice student under Walt Wentworth, S4PWB, in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1973. It took me 3 months of hard study to pass the Novice test.

My next Novice students were by mail in the Altoona, PA area, Bob Hoover, N3IHN and William C. Calvert, Jr., KA3PIM. I flew up to see my parents and gave Bob and William their novice tests. Both told me that they would never have become hams without Code Quick.

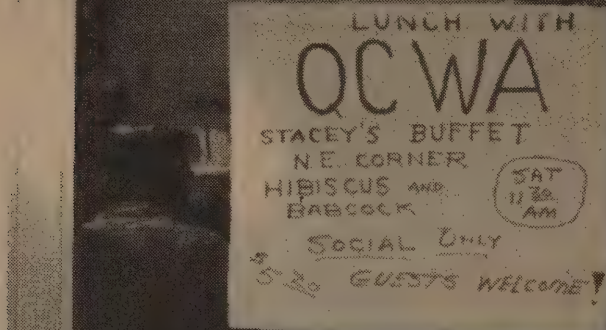
The next big step was to use the Code Quick Program on a regularly scheduled class at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa. We had 10 students and 6 got their Novice tickets. One student, 11 years old, whose father is an Amateur Radio operator, told me at the beginning of the course, "I don't believe you will be able to get my son interested in studying morse code." I explained how Code Quick works by each letter talking to you. Letter D is Dog did it, not (..) and K is Kangaroo, not (..). Cartoon pictures of each letter character makes it even more fun. His father had said, "I don't think it will work, but go ahead." The next class a week later the father said, "My son is jumping all around the house saying, "Dog did it," and "kangaroo." His son got his license.

In June of 1990, Stew Schneller, K4JOP asked me to set up a one-on-one Novice course for his son, Matt. Matt passed his novice test in about 7 weeks. Stew was so impressed by Code Quick, he bought his own set of Code Quick tapes plus the upgrade tape and both he and his son went all the way to Extra. Matt is now AC4UF. In 1992, K4JOP's wife, Aina, KD4SCH and daughter, Katie, KD4SCG got their Novice licenses using Code Quick.

Jonathan Hanson, KC4TJQ wanted to learn the morse code for something to do during the summer. In 1-1/2 weeks, he was ready to take the novice code test using Code Quick. Dan came into the museum of Science and Industry Amateur Radio Station and said he wanted to become a Ham and talk around the world. Dan said the morse code was what was holding him back. I told Dan about Code Quick and he got the Code Quick course and in less than a month, he passed his novice test. Code Quick, Dan said, made the difference.

So, here are some true examples to prove that Code Quick makes learning morse code fun and interesting. Try it, you'll like it. Also, you will reduce your study time.

Ed. Note. Just so you don't mistake this for a paid advertisement! It is an enthusiastic testimony for a successful method of teaching code and there are many! Anyone who has experienced the frustrations of teaching someone code can appreciate the joy at finding the key to success. Obviously Code Quick works.



QCWA sign greets hams at entrance to Melbourne Hamfest



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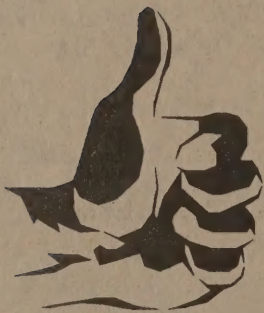
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SELL - EZWAY 40' crank-up/over tower, Wall Mount Wench, Rotor and Cables. Cushcraft antennas A432-20T, A144-10T, cables and Ham-M. Hy-Gain 204BA Beam. 3000V IA Westinghouse Transformer. Best Offer. Wayne Cooper, AG4R, 9302 NW 2nd Place, Miami Shores, FL (305) 757-1718.

Put your troubles in a pocket with a hole in it.

HYGAIN THUNDERBIRD - 3 El Antenna 10-15-20M. Hygain 40M & 80M Halfwave Doublet with traps Model 2BDO. Make Offer. Larry Fettrow, 6603 NW 58 St., Tamarac, FL 33321 PH: 720-7596.

FCC Preempts "Scanner Laws" for Hams



The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that states and municipalities may not enact ordinances forbidding amateur radio equipment simply because it receives frequencies normally reserved for police use.

The ruling was in response to an ARRL Motion for a Declaratory ruling Concerning the Possession of Radio Receivers Capable of Reception of Police or Other Public Safety Communications>N> filed on November 14,

1989. On March 15, 1990, the FCC issued a Public Notice that asked for additional comment on the matter.

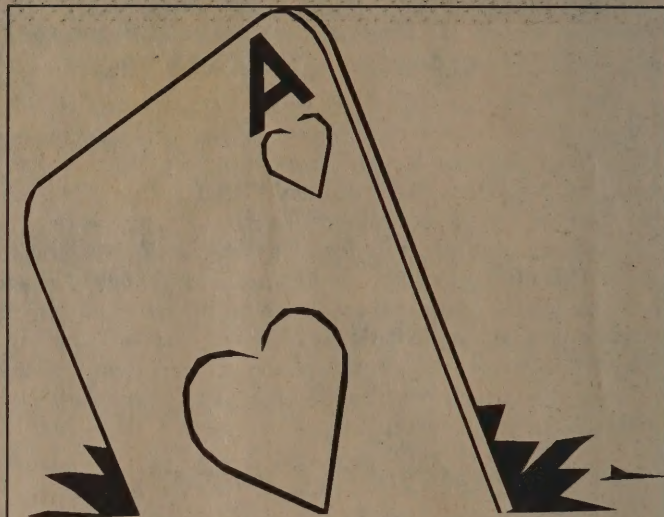
The League made two arguments in support of preemption. First is said that the receiver sections of the majority of commercially available amateur station transceivers have the capability to be tuned slightly past the edges of the amateur service bands "...to insure proper operation of the transceiver throughout the entire amateur band in question."

The second point that the ARRL made was the broader issue of whether state and local authorities should be permitted, via scanner laws, to prohibit the capability of radio reception by ham operators on public safety and special emergency frequencies that are located well outside the amateur service bands.

The League maintains that amateur operators have special needs for broadscale "out-of-band" reception, and that the marketplace has long recognized these needs by offering accommodating transceivers.

The FCC concluded that certain state and local laws conflict with the Commission's regulatory scheme designed to promote a strong amateur radio service and limitations on

SKIP HAMBARS



YOUR ACE IN THE HOLE!

amateurs operating rights runs counter to the express policies of both Congress and the Commission to encourage and support amateur service operations, including mobile operations, and impermissively encroaches on federal authority over amateur operators.

The FCC's ruling follows a five year effort by the ARRL to obtain a definitive ruling after several highly publicized cases where Amateur Radio operators were subject to arrest and seizure of mobile amateur radio equipment by local authorities for violation of so-called "scanner laws."

-excerpted and edited from W5YI, September

ANTI-TRUST LAWYER TO HEAD FCC

Attorney Reed E. Hundt is expected to be nominated by President Clinton to become the next chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Hundt, 45, is a well known Washington anti-trust litigator with the firm of Latham and Watkins. He is said to have little background in communications law, but an excellent understanding of the nation's future telecommunications needs. he has advised the Wireless Cable Association, Hughes Communications and individual cable operators in access to cable programming.

Hundt
th

SPEAKING OF ANTENNAS

-by Ted Hart, W5QJR Antenna Products
P.O. Box 334; Melbourne, FL 32902 T

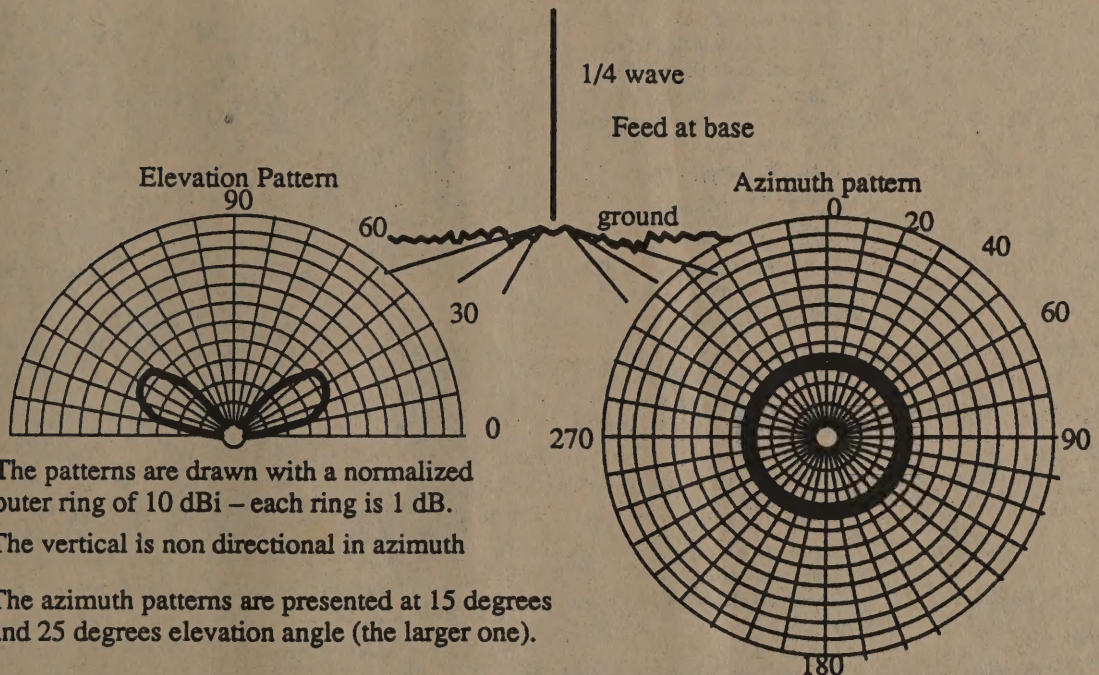
1/4 WAVELENGTH VERTICAL

Length – depends on radials (0.1 λ used for the patterns)

Height – $1/4 \lambda$

Max Gain – dBi @ degrees Elevation angle, non directional in Azimuth

Z – nominal 35 ohms – base fed



The patterns are drawn with a normalized outer ring of 10 dBi – each ring is 1 dB.

The vertical is non directional in azimuth

The azimuth patterns are presented at 15 degrees and 25 degrees elevation angle (the larger one).

Comments—A $1/4$ wave vertical is notorious for its poor efficiency, but is simple and provides radiation at low elevation angles, about the same as the broadside of a dipole. The problem is due to ground loss. These patterns were run with 10 0.1λ radials, about the most manageable in a standard yard. Due to the dielectric of ground, longer lengths make little difference. If the antenna can be elevated and use 4 radials above ground, it becomes an efficient antenna for low angle radiation. A vertical is also more susceptible to man-made noise than horizontally polarized antennas, causing problems on receive.

As a general rule, a standard ground mounted $1/4$ wave vertical is a poor choice for an antenna.

Some improvement (about 2 dB) is achieved when a $5/8 \lambda$ vertical is used. This requires a base loading coil to effectively make the electrical length $3/4 \lambda$ at the desired resonant frequency. This is commonly used as a VHF antenna.

Unless there is a significant height restriction, consider using a $1/2 \lambda$ vertical (on 40 meters and above) that does not require radials. One method of feeding a $1/2 \lambda$ vertical is a J Pole configuration. The matching section is $1/4 \lambda$, but can be mounted horizontal for a vertical antenna to reduce height. That is a very efficient antenna and is preferred for VHF mobile operation. Even automobiles make poor grounds.

The author has received numerous reports from HAMs that are pleased with the GAP antenna. It offers multiband operation, is small and is one of the better commercial verticals.

FLORIDA HAMFEST UPDATE

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
Oct 23/24	West Palm Beach	Expo Center at South Fla Fairgrounds SR 80 just east of US 441 Talk-in on 147.165
Oct 29/30	St. Petersburg	QCWA National Convention at St. Pete-Clearwater Airport Holiday Inn Talk-in on 145.290
Nov 6	Eustis	Lake County Fairgrounds Talk-in on 147.255 & 442.900
Nov 13	Lake Worth	FREE! At Sunset Ridge Park, Ave. A and 13th St. North Talk-in on 146.670
Nov 13	Hialeah	Free! At Hialeah Adult Center 20 West 6th St. Noon-5PM Talk-in on 146.805
Nov 20/21	Tampa	Expo Hall, Fla State Fairgrounds Talk-in on 146.940
Dec 4	Okeechobee	Agriculture Center Bldg on U.S. 441, 1.5 miles north of S.R. 70 Talk-in on 147.195
Dec 4	Ocala	Marion Cty Livestock Pavillion Jacksonville Rd, Ocala Talk-in on 146.970
- 1994 -		
Jan 8/9	Fort Myers	City of Palms Hamfest Fort Myers Shriner Mosque 2010 Hanson St, 1 bl east of US 41 Talk-in on 147.345
Jan 15	Fort Myers	Shady Oaks Community Center on Marion St. Talk-in on 146.880
Jan 22	Crystal River	Crystal River Armory Talk-in on 146.955
Jan 23	Pinellas Park	Benefit Pinellas Park Boy's Club 61st St N Talk-in on 147.060
Jan 29	Sarasota	Robards Sports Arena & Fairgrounds 3000 Fruitville Rd Talk-in on 146.910 and 146.730
Feb 5/6	Miami	Dade County Expo Center SW 112th Ave & Coral Way Talk-in on 146.925
Feb 12	Pensacola	Bayfront Municipal Auditorium Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925
Feb 12	Arcadia	Am. Legion Hall on Hwy 70, 2 miles west of town. Talk-in on 147.075
Feb 19/20	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds 4300 W. Colonial Way Talk-in on 146.760
Feb 26	Stuart	FREE! At Langford Park, Jensen Beach Talk-in on 147.060
Feb 26	Brooksville	Hernando County Fairgrounds Talk-in on 146.715
Apr 9/10	Gainesville	Alacua County Fairgrounds SR 24 & SR 222 - At the airport Talk-in on 146.820

Send any corrections or additions to
KB4VOL @ KB4VOL



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club vehicle with satellite antennas for W1AW/4 at the ARRL National Convention in Huntsville, AL. Photo courtesy of Chet, AB4XX

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